



DELAWARE INSTITUTE OF DENTAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH (DIDER) QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Department of Health and Social Services

Herman M. Holloway Sr. Health and Social Services Campus - Room 198

1901 N. DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720

Meeting Attendance

Board Members Present:

- Louis Rafetto, DMD (Chair)
- Theodore W. Becker, Jr.
- Nicholas Conte, DMD, MBA
- Lisa Goss, RDH, BS
- Bruce Matthews, DDS
- Howard Zucker, DDS

Board Members Absent:

- Wanda Gardiner-Smith, DDS
- Brian McAllister, DDS
- Ray S. Rafetto, DMD

Delaware Health Care Commission Staff Present:

- Elisabeth Scheneman, Executive Director
- Eschalla Clarke, Social Services Senior Administrator

Partners/Guests Attending:

- N/A



Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Louis Rafetto (Chair) called the meeting to order at approximately 3:12PM.

The DIMER/DIDER meeting was a success and should continue this year again.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – BOARD VOTE

Louis Rafetto ask for a vote to approve the September 26, 2018 meeting minutes for the collaborative meeting with Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER). All board members present unanimously voted in favor of approving the meeting minutes providing the following change is formally documented:

Correction – an update must be made to the September 26, 2018 meeting minutes. The Delaware Institute of Dental Education and Research (DIDER) Board was unclear about the previously reported \$90,000 for dental tuition. According to a recent search at online, tuition at Temple University is \$65,400 for out of State students, and \$57,924 for in-State student. This amount does not include the books, sterilization fees, etc.

DIDER EXPENDITURE UPDATE

DIDER Chair, Louis Rafetto, provided a DIDER funding update to the DIDER board. Temple University, Kornberg School of Dentistry has not yet invoiced the State of Delaware for five Delaware residents that are approved to be admitted in academic year 2018-2019.

\$17,500 will be paid to one State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) participant in 2019. Two dental practitioners are currently participating in the program; one serving at Westside Family Healthcare and one at Delaware Psychiatric Center. The amount of \$17,500 is not sufficient to cover the current commitments for contracted dental practitioners totaling \$28,500 in 2019.

In July 2016 (State Fiscal Year - SFY 2017), Delaware General Assembly cut funding totaling \$456,300 for three DIDER programs; Temple University - School of Dentistry, General Practice Residents Support, and Loan Repayment Program. The Department of Insurance provided a one-time funding commitment through Delaware Grants-in-Aid budget (Senate Bill 295) to ensure all obligated DIDER contracts can be paid out through June 30, 2017. At that time, there was only one dental practitioner participating in SLRP, and the total payout amount was \$17,500. Consequently, DIDER Loan Repayment Program line item budget has received level funding since then, and will likely receive the same amount in the upcoming SFY 2020 budget cycle.



Presently, the State has funding available to cover existing SLRP obligations with dental practitioners. But going forward, the situation can potentially restrict awards to only one dental practitioner. Unless, financial resources from employers or other third-party sources are utilized to supplement the 1:1 Federal match requirement.

Three problems are identified as a result of this discussion;

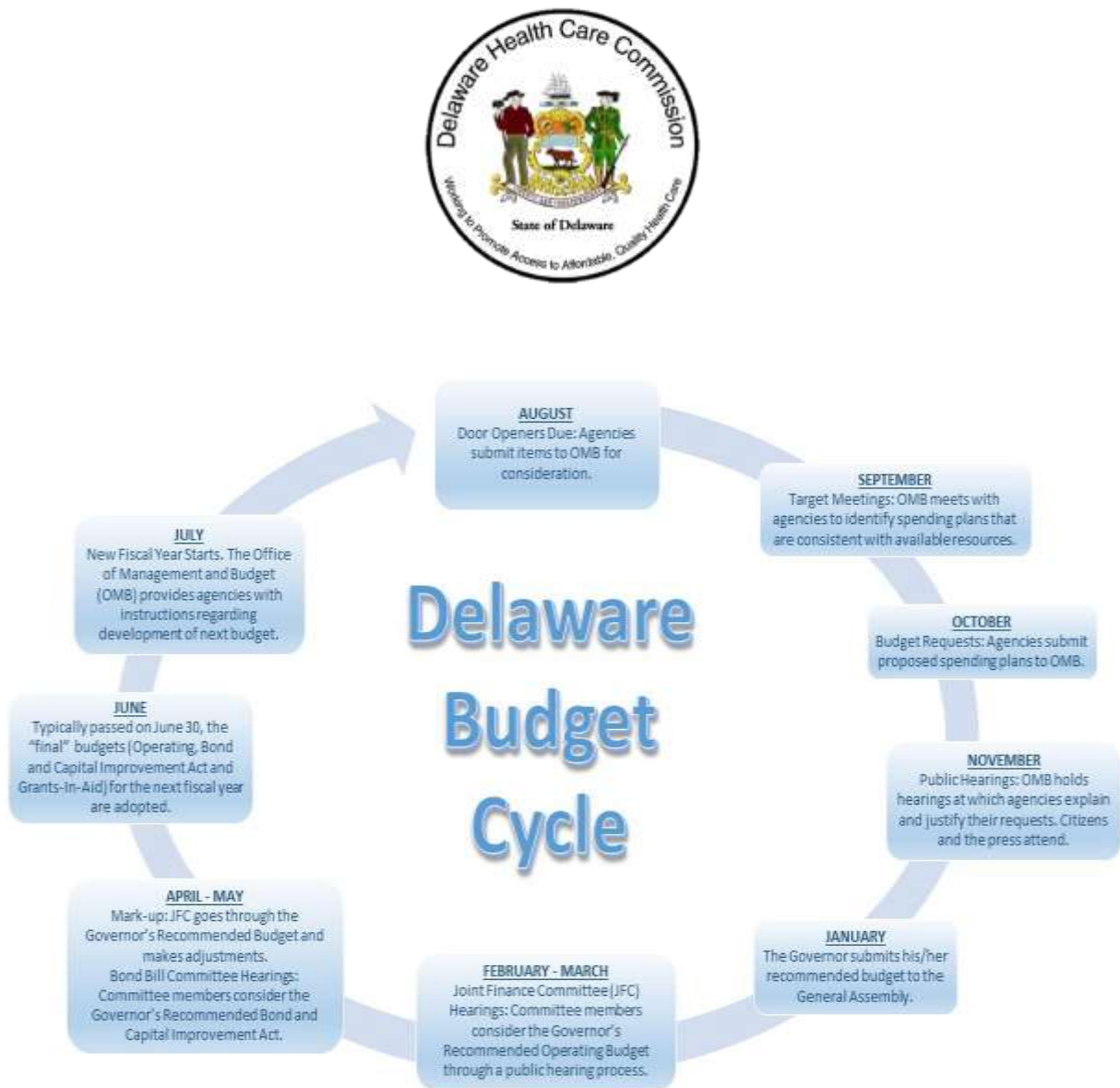
1. Not enough practitioners are applying and/or qualifying for awards. The reason being the Federal program restrictions are driving applicants away.
2. Not enough funding to award multiple dental practitioners in one year.
3. More Federal funds is available for this program and no State funds to meet capacity.

How to get ahead of Delaware Budget Process?

DIDER has consistently been behind the State's budget cycle and requests are not submitted timely. How can DIDER get ahead of the budget request process? Delaware's budget cycle projects out two (2) years in advance. Budget Requests for 2021 has already started accumulating across the State. **DIDER must submit a written request with substantial justification to Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) by February 28, 2019 for any additional funding needs with relevant timelines.** DHCC compiles the information and filters it to the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Budget Team, who in turn communicates with the Cabinet Secretary, Division of Accounting, and Governor's Office. Some proposed budget changes are;

- Restore funding to previous DIDER Program amounts (Temple = 250K, Christiana Care = 148K and State Loan Repayment Program = 58.3K)
- Establish as parallel State Loan Repayment Program that is non-reliant on Federal funds.

A flow chart of the State's budget process is included below to provide visual understanding of the process.



Senator Lopez (Healthcare Legislation) is receptive to the idea of Health Workforce Development initiatives and is in support a separate SLRP outside of the Federal program requirement.

DIDER is a board of volunteers, and now need to determine the best path forward to ensure action is taken with these ideas. Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research (DIMER) is thinking along the same lines and is already ahead of the curve that DIDER is starting on. It is beneficial to align both DIDER and DIMER initiatives and request structure. A joint request by DIDER and DIMER for SLRP funds might be the most effective approach.

DIDER Chair, Dr. Lou Rafetto, will reach out to the DIMER Chair, Mr. Sherman Townsend, to endorse the idea of a joint request for a parallel State-supported SLRP. DIDER member, Ted Becker, will follow up with a supportive phone call to the DIMER Chair. DHCC will facilitate meetings with both DIDER and DIMER Chairs. DHCC Chair, Dr. Nancy Fan, recently met with the DIMER Chair regarding similar discussions (concerns/direction of the program), and would appreciate a similar discussion with the DIDER Chair. This initial discussion gets the DHCC Commissioners on-board and in support of these initiatives as well.



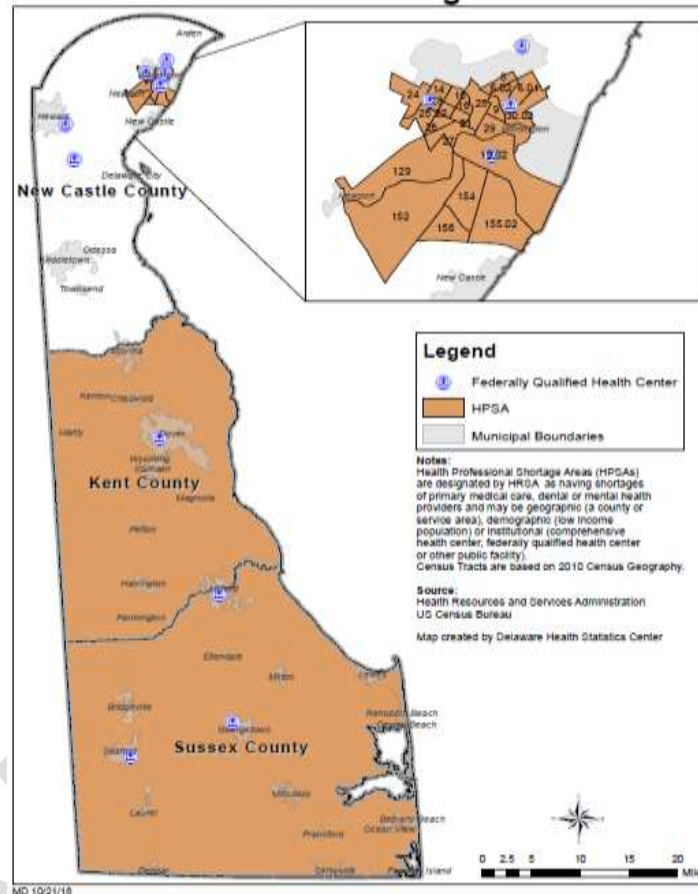
STATE DENTAL DIRECTOR UPDATE

The State of Delaware Dental Director, Nicholas Conte - DMD, MBA, presented an update to Delaware Health Care Commission on behalf of DIDER Board on Thursday, November 1, 2018. The immediate win from that day is the opportunity to participate as a member of the Delaware Health Science Alliance (DHSA) and addressing where we are as a state, and hope to be, in terms of dental access and health.

The State Health Rankings recently released and Delaware moved from a rank of 30 to 31. The State is also 47th in the nation; behind Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi. Ranking is driven by; (1) Dental Access, (2) Opioid Crisis and deaths, and (3) Infant Mortality in the State. DIDER Board should focus on the provider ratios and the ability to provide care. Adult dental is not a component of Medicaid. Would acquiring this Medicaid coverage increase our potential with only 380 providers in the State? Change will have to go hand in hand with access to care, provider scope and population. Contribution to healthcare workforce development is a huge component and opportunity for the board. Kent and Sussex Counties are dental Health Professional Shortage Areas - see the map below for reference;



Dental HPSA Designations



Both public and private sectors need to look at where we are as a State and assess ways to improve access and workforce. More providers in densely populated areas is not accomplishing anything, which is what traditionally what happens. What are the effective ways to address these issues?

- Delaware is an outlier in terms of criteria for licensure
- Scope of Practice – denturists and denture therapists
- Provider Levels – open up provider service regulations

States in similar position to Delaware, like the Dakotas, Minnesota, Michigan, the upper peninsula, and areas where people go on vacation – but are otherwise desolate, has engaged the idea of dental therapists and different levels of providers. **The goal is to have the right number of dentists to treat the number of population needs.** Delaware needs to correctly identify shortage areas where provider deficiencies exists and accurately place practitioners based on need. This would be a great criteria to incorporate into a parallel State-supported loan repayment program. The objective is to put providers



close to where people can access them; develop a provider mix based on population needs. Reimbursements to providers should be reinstated to foster retention.

This is a deeper discussion for private and public providers across Delaware. DIDER Chair propose a summit to move the State's needs past discussion to action items. This idea needs to be brought to the attention of DHCC for budget approval. Next steps;

- An expert facilitator is needed
- Identify a small group (8-10) of critical attendees; such as the Oral Health Coalition, Legislature (ask for suggestion from DHSS Secretary's Office) or Lt. Governor – Bethany Hall-Long, Hygiene, and Christiana Care – must have by the next meeting (April)
- A preliminary discussion is needed to lay the ground rules for a summit – no more than 2 meetings
- Send out invitations
- Develop a future-direction document for Delaware dental needs
- Collaborate with the Division of Public Health
- **Establish a timeline and rough ideas for this event and present at the next DIDER meeting (April)**

NEW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (BLUE SKY CONCEPTS)

Covered in the State Dental Director segment.

OPPORTUNITIES TO RE-ENERGIZE STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

As it stands now, Delaware State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is not attractive to practicing dentists mainly due to the practice site and matching funds requirements. One dentist practicing at a New Castle County Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) received a SLRP award in the advance category.

FUTURE OF DIDER AND REALISTIC TIMELINES – BOARD VOTE

Ted Becker opened discussions early in the meeting on the possibilities of establishing membership with Delaware Health Science Alliances (DHSA) similar to what was proposed for DIMER. After Dr. Conte's presentation to Delaware Health Care Commission in November 2018, Mr. Becker made a motion to have DIDER included in the DHSA-DIMER agreement. This motion was second by Dean Kathleen Matt. DIDER now needs a meeting with DHSA to come up with a budget proposal and terms and conditions for an agreement with DHSA.



DIDER Board unanimously approved pursuing this venture with Delaware Health Sciences Alliance, and Dr. Conte agreed to take the lead for this initiative.

Temple University hosted a dinner for DIDER students in October 2018. Board attendance is needed at the future dinners. DIDER board member, Dr. Bruce Matthews, discussed the possibility of developing a recruitment dinner in early Fall and participation of one student, who may not otherwise qualify for admissions to Temple, in the Post Baccalaureate (post bacc) program for one year. Further discussions with Temple University is needed to work out the details for contract amendments/updates. The University of Delaware also has a similar program.

The Recruitment Dinner (lunch is not a convenient time) should include attendance from Christiana Care Health System, Dental Society, and a Resident. This event should be open to students interested in practicing in Delaware, not just DIDER students. Presentations must be prepared in advance of the meeting.

2019 MEETINGS, COLLABORATIONS, AND LOCATIONS

Per previous Board discussions, DIDER meetings will continue to be hosted on a quarterly basis and in-person.

- 2 meetings hosted in New Castle County (January 9, 2019 and April 10, 2019)
- 1 meeting hosted in Kent County (July 10, 2019)
- 1 meeting collaboration with DIMER in Newark (October 9, 2019 *tentatively*)

As proposed and implemented in 2018, a collaborative meeting with the Delaware Institute for Medical Education and Research (DIMER) Board members will be scheduled in early Fall 2019. Dean, Kathleen Matt and DIMER Chair, Sherman Townsend are in favor of the collaboration. The Fall DIDER meeting is currently scheduled for October 9, 2019. This date must be mutually acceptable to the DIMER Board members before the collaborative meeting can be scheduled on this proposed date. A new location will be selected for this meeting, it will possibly be at the University of Delaware, STAR Campus again. The new location must accommodate approximately 35-40 people comfortably.

OTHER BUSINESS

Sixteen (16) people are taking the Board License Exam on January 10, 2019. Hygienist testing is one day and typically scheduled in June. There is one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Usually there are 16-18 providers taking the exams and most of them are from Delaware Technical Community College. **It would be great to know how many of them stay and practice in Delaware, and what can be done to improve the retention rate.**



New promotional materials and literature is needed moving forward. DIDER will consider including this request in a partnership with Delaware Health Science Alliances.

Delaware Health Care Commission (DHCC) is updating the DIDER website. The DIDER Board will review the website and provide DHCC with additional updates and/or suggestions for improvement.

DIDER Board will provide updated personal contact information and professional credentials to DHCC@state.de.us by January 30, 2019.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15PM. The next DIDER Board meeting is tentatively scheduled as follows;

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Time: 3:00PM – 5:00PM

*Location: Herman Holloway Campus – Main Administrative Building – Room 198
1901 N. Dupont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720*